

making.” *Id.* at (a)(1). “Materials” includes “documents of any nature and in any medium.” *Id.* at (a)(2).

Motions to Seal references to, or portions of, settlement agreements have been granted. *See, e.g., Schumacher v. Souderton Area Sch. Dist.*, 105 Fed.Appx. 401, 402-03 (3d Cir. 2004)(granting motion to seal references to terms of settlement agreement); *Sanofi-Aventis U.S. LLC v. Sandoz, Inc.*, 2009 WL 3230867 (D.N.J.)(granting motion to seal brief in support of motion for miscellaneous relief and settlement documents attached as exhibits); *Seals v. Herzing, Inc. – New Orleans*, 2012 WL 85280 (E.D. La.)(court granting defendant’s motion to seal those exhibits that announced the settlement agreement’s terms).

Application

Pursuant to Local Rule 5.3(c)(2), this Motion to Seal is based upon the following facts (which have been redacted as needed):

(a) Nature of the Materials or Proceedings At Issue

The Defendants seek to seal their Opposition to the Plaintiff’s Motion for Sanctions, which referenced certain highly privileged and confidential materials. Specifically, at Pages 16-17 of the Opposition, reference is made to provisions of a Settlement Agreement, which is highly private and confidential as follows:

TO BE BLOCKED OFF: THE FOLLOWING PARAGRAPH AND THE CAPTIONED
HEREBY, agree – to make no disclosure, and/or statements, or
statements – regarding the Agreement, the terms, and
the manner in which the LTRN Award will be made.
(Settlement Agreement, 12.01)

(b) The Legitimate Private Interests That Warrant the Relief Sought

As set forth above, the parties to the Agreement have a legitimate private interest in maintaining confidentiality surrounding their Settlement and the provisions thereof. Specifically, the Agreement between the parties is highly confidential and in and of itself should not be revealed. Any revelation thereof harms both the non-party referenced and the Defendants. The third parties and the Defendants settled a matter that is highly notorious, with the intention that the settlement not be revealed in any manner.

Furthermore, the public has an interest in being able to enter into settlement agreements which, pursuant to their terms, are confidential, and ensure that their confidentiality will be maintained in a subsequent legal proceeding.

- (c) The Clearly Defined and Serious Injury That Would Result if the Relief Sought is Not Granted.

The Agreement itself betrays why serious injury shall result if the relief sought is not granted:

[REDACTED]

Notwithstanding the foregoing, (a) the Parties hereto shall be permitted to disclose the terms and conditions of the Agreement to support a legal proceeding, including without limitation a subpoena, in connection with a legal proceeding to enforce the terms herein. In either case, such disclosure shall not be made except pursuant to a court order compelling the compliance with the Agreement, its terms and conditions or following the issuance of an order, and only in such person and/or agencies authorized to receive such information under such order.

[REDACTED] (Settlement Agreement, 12.02).

Furthermore, 12.06 provides that if either party breaches, in violation of the above provision of the Settlement Agreement, it is expressly agreed that the injured party will be deemed to have suffered monetary damages in an amount not less than \$50,000....

”

~~END OF BLACKING OUT~~

Revelation of the terms of the Settlement Agreement would irreparably harm the parties thereto insofar as they are highly confidential, private, and not for public dissemination. Furthermore, there are high amount of damages presumed to have been suffered by any such revelation. The provisions of the Settlement Agreement referenced harm the third parties and the Defendants insofar as they specifically provide that monies were exchanged between the parties to the Agreement, and what the amount(s) were.

If this relief is not granted, the parties to the Settlement Agreement would be clearly defined and seriously injured. This specificity meets the standard required for sealing records.

(d) Why a Letter Restrictive Alternative to the Relief Sought Is Not Available.

Given the sensitivity of the matters contained in the Settlement Agreement and the sensationality of the topic, there are no less restrictive alternatives to the relief sought herein. Sealing details of a settlement agreement that requires the parties to maintain the confidentiality of its terms is appropriate. *See, e.g., Collis v. Bank of America, N.A.*, 2010 WL 2892559, 1 n. 1 (D. Md.) (“Because the Settlement Agreement requires that the parties maintain the confidentiality of the terms, these Motions [to seal] are granted”).

(e) The Quoted Portions of Settlement

Pages 16-17 of the Defendants’ specified Opposition quotes the following provisions of the Settlement Agreement.

~~THIS MATTER IS RELAYED BY BLACKING OUT~~

~~2.01. The parties to the Settlement Agreement shall cause the Successor Parties to deposit the sum of Three Million One Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$3,100,000.00) in the form of cash (the “Settlement Sum”), which shall be made payable to the~~

[REDACTED] attorneys for Rob Easari and Rob
Easari Productions, LLC."

2009. All future accounting and payments to the Easari Parties pursuant to this
agreement shall be made to the Easari Parties and their attorneys, D.
Cavanaugh Associates, 155 South Avenue, 14th Floor, New York, New York 10038. All
future payments to the Easari Parties pursuant to this Agreement shall be made
to D. Cavanaugh Associates as attorneys for Rob Easari
and Rob Easari Productions, LLC"

(Exhibit B, pp. 8).

[REDACTED]

The Plaintiff does not object to this Motion or the relief sought herein. In fact, the Plaintiff has previously moved the Court to seal portions of documents she has filed which reference the subject agreement. The Plaintiff's Motion was denied, at which point her counsel informed that he would not object if the Defendants sought similar relief with respect to sealing the subject agreement.

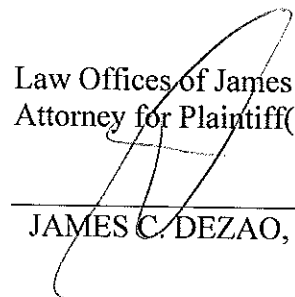
Because the above pages of the Opposition cite to the confidential agreement, the Defendants' Motion to Seal should be granted.

Conclusion

For the reasons set forth above, the Defendants' Motion to Seal should be granted.

Law Offices of James C. DeZao, P.A.
Attorney for Plaintiff(s)

Dated: 8/8/12

By: 
JAMES C. DEZAO, ESQ.